



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
Philadelphia District

## **PROJECT FACT SHEET**

### **Grover's Mill Pond Mercer County, NJ**

March 2007

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**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS:** Rep. Holt (NJ-12)

**APPROPRIATION / PHASE:**

Continuing Authorities / Plans & Specifications

**BUSINESS PROGRAM:**

Ecosystem Restoration

**AUTHORITY:** Water Resources Development Act of 1996, Section 206, Aquatic Restoration.

**LOCATION:** Grover's Mill Pond is located on Big Bear Creek, a tributary of the Millstone River, which eventually flows into the Raritan River. The pond is located in West Windsor Township, Mercer County, NJ.

**DESCRIPTION:** The goal of the Grover's Mill Pond Restoration Project is to restore fisheries habitat in a degraded freshwater pond. This goal will be accomplished through a combination of sediment removal from the existing pond bottom, physical habitat improvements, and state re-stocking efforts which will greatly improve the Grover's Mill Pond ecosystem.

Grover's Mill Pond is a 37-acre man-made lake created by an earthen dam across Big Bear Creek towards the middle of the 18th century. The pond was originally impounded in Colonial times to power a gristmill and the dam was upgraded in 1931. The water level and flow of the pond is controlled by a concrete spillway and sluice gate.

Over the years the pond has exhibited eutrophic tendencies (high algae and nutrient levels) and has silted to the point where average water depth is between one and four feet. This nutrient-rich silt directly influences the severity of anoxia (lack of dissolved oxygen in portions of the water column) and aquatic plant growth in the pond. The pond becomes anoxic and choked with excess aquatic vegetation during the summer. In addition, there is little refuge habitat for local fishery populations due to the shallowness of the water and the high water temperatures during the summer months and the ice and colder water temperatures during the winter season.

Approximately 50,000-60,000 cubic yards of nutrient laden silt-like sediment and organic matter will be removed from the pond bottom by a small portable hydraulic dredge. The dredge slurry will be piped to an 11-acre confined disposal facility located on township-owned property near the upstream end of the pond.

Sediment removal will: create more favorable water depths for local fishery populations, reduce subsequent excessive aquatic plant growth, provide additional habitat area due to decreased plant biomass within the pond, increase the availability of oxygen in the lower oxygen starved portions of the water column, and create contours to provide habitat diversity and refuge areas for fishery populations.

## Grover's Mill Pond, Mercer County, NJ *(continued)*

Fish habitat structures such as porcupine cribs will be placed into the pond to further enhance the existing fishery habitat. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries, stated that they will restock the pond with additional largemouth bass and other gamefish after the habitat structures are installed. As a result, recreational fishing opportunities for the public will increase.

The community park along the pond also offers opportunities for environmental education signs discussing the importance of habitat to fish. In addition, when the confined disposal facility is disassembled, the dried dredge materials will be reshaped into a sledding hill.

**STATUS:** The Planning, Design, and Analysis is complete. As soon as FY07 funds are received, the PCA will be executed and construction can be initiated.

### FINANCIAL

#### DATA (\$000)

	Fed	Non-Fed	Total
PRP, Planning & Design Analysis	355	*191	546
Construction	2,879	1,550	4,429

### BUDGET

#### DATA (\$000)

		Comments
Through FY 04	147	**
FY 05	41	
FY 06	260	
FY 07	2,864	

\* Will be reimbursed during construction phase

\*\* \$500,000 included as line item in FY03 Appropriation, \$10,000 included as line item in FY02 Appropriation

**SPONSOR:** West Windsor Township, NJ

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